The A. F. of L. Weekly News Service gives news accounts and editorial interpretations of matters affecting labor occurring in the industrial, legislative, and judicial fields, and contains other information of benefit to the trade union movement.

AMERICAN FEDERATION OF LABOR

WEEKLY NEWS SERVICE

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FACING the FACTS

With PHILIP PEARL

Unlike other isolationists, John L. Lewis is speaking with action rather than words. Lewis has made it abundantly clear that he does not believe America is menaced by Hitler. He has been outspoken to the effect that President Roosevelt is a "war-monger" and has engineered a "fake war scare." Other isolationists have uttered the same sentiments and have let it go at that. But Lewis is now trying to prove his point by deliberately sabotaging the national defense program.

No other interpretation can be placed upon his arbitrary action in calling a strike of the miners in captive coal mines despite the earnest pleas of President Roosevelt.

There was no immediate urgency for this strike. The only issue involved is the closed shop. The miners have been getting along for years without the closed shop in these mines. There is no question that Lewis is trying to take advantage of the national emergency in now demanding it. But we have no desire to quarrel with his objective or his timing. The principle involved here is much more basic and vital.

In this case the President of the United States has given solemn warning that such a strike would seriously endanger defense production. He called upon this union leader to hold the strike in abeyance pending conferences to settle the closed shop issue. Lewis thrice refused. The strike went into effect. That is not only a betrayal of America, it is not only a betrayal of the workers involved, but it is a dastardly and indefensible betrayal of the best interests of all labor in America.

All Labor Will Suffer

For what are to be the effects of this headstrong and insane leadership? Already we have the answer. A tidal wave of anti-labor sentiment again is sweeping the country. It is engulfing the friends of labor in Congress. True, public and Congressional resentment is chiefly directed at Lewis. But unless this wave is checked he will not be the only victim. All of labor will suffer. Lewis is gambling not only with the rights of his own miners but with the freedom of the whole labor movement.

Again organized labor will be forced to face and fight renewed attempts to impose anti-strike legislation on American workers. Again organized labor will be compelled to exert every resource to escape legislative strait-jackets. Again a crisis confronts the decent, sane and patriotic majority of American workers because of the excesses of a labor dictator.

It is indeed tragic that the single arbitrary act of one man can obscure the resplendent record of effective service given by American labor and American labor unions in the national defense program. The self-discipline, the sweat and the struggle of millions of workers, their sacrifices and their patriotism, may be besmirched by the ungovernable actions of this man Lewis.

If ever there was a time when all of labor—CIO as well as AFL—should unite in repudiation of false leadership, this is the moment. We call on all loyal trade unionists to join with us in a public declaration that John L. Lewis speaks only for himself.

Same Story In Currier Case

To those Senate investigators who are probing into the circumstances of the rejection of the bid of the Currier Lumber Company on a defense housing project in Detroit, the present eruption of John L. Lewis should prove illuminating.

To anyone familiar with the facts of the situation, the bid of this company, coming on the heels of a backstairs agreement with the CIO construction workers union, was apparently nothing more than a device to obstruct the national defense program. To those in the know, it was an obvious scheme to drive a wedge into the solid basis of cooperation between the AFL building trades unions and the Federal defense agencies.

The CIO construction workers union was created—on paper—for the sole purpose of raiding, harassing and demoralizing the well-organized and long-established building trades unions of the American Federation of Labor. Recognizing the reasons for its origin, many of the responsible leaders of the CIO itself rejected this paper union and refused to give it aid.

If any confirmation were necessary, the practices of this union and its leader, Denny Lewis, John's kid-brother and stooge, provided it. Its first move was to approach AFL contractors and offer to cut wages and lengthen hours. Who ever heard of a legitimate union which would descend to such depths? In the present case, the Denny Lewis union went even further and signed a contract with a firm whose notorious anti-union record is a stench in the nostrils of even the CIO auto workers in Detroit.

The Government of the United States must look beyond the mere figures on bids. The laws of our country require that. In this case, the facts, the laws, the decencies and the requirements of the national defense program require that the action of the Government agencies involved in rejecting the Currier bid be fully upheld.

Convention of Electrical Workers Is Largest In History of Union

St. Louis, Mo.—One of the nation's strongest and most progressive labor organizations, the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers, opened the biggest convention in its history here.

Nearly 1,300 delegates, from all parts of the United States and Canada, as well as from Alaska, Newfoundland, Hawaii and the Canal Zone, were on hand when President Ed J. Brown called the session to order in the impressive Thomas Jefferson Hotel.

The convention marks the fiftieth anniversary since the founding of the Brotherhood by 10 courageous linemen in this very city.

When the international was born, it had a total of 300 members. Today, its rolls include far over 200,000. Wages then averaged about $1.50 for a 10-hour day. Now they are nearly that much per hour. Electricity was then in its infancy. Today it is the nation's mightiest source of power.

This marvelous progress of both the union and the industry will be dramatized by a huge electrical exposition at the Municipal Auditorium by Local No. 1, the first to be chartered by the Brotherhood.

Every phase of the giant electrical industry is represented by exhibits, and government power agencies, such as the Tennessee Valley Authority and the Rural Electrification Administration, are also participating.

The convention will be the first in 12 years, and for that reason will have a record amount of business to transact. It won't be surprising if unfriendly newspapers and other foes of unions make adverse comment about the lapse of time since the last conclave, but the explanation is simple.

Shortly after the 1929 convention the worst depression in history descended on the nation. Nevertheless, officers of the Brotherhood felt that conventions should be held each four years, as provided by the constitution. They so recommended to the locals, but each time the proposal was made it was turned down, because many members were out of work and local unions' funds were too low to meet their share of convention expenses.

In all, five referenda were held on the subject, and the vote was negative in each case, up to the present convention. In the interval, the Executive Council efficiently transacted the union's business, but many important matters were submitted to members for their decision by referendum.

Despite the severe economic crisis, the Brotherhood not only held its ranks firmly, but steadily advanced, and today its membership is three times as great as at the last convention. Financially, the organization is in an unusually sound position.

N. Y. Labor, Fraternal Units Give $26,139 To Aid Workers in Britain

New York, N. Y.—Organized labor and fraternal organizations in Greater New York, responding to the appeal of Matthew Woll, A. F. of L. Vice-President and Chairman of the American Labor Committee to Aid British Labor "to strengthen the bonds of fraternity with our brothers in Great Britain by extending the hand of relief in their hour of need," have already contributed $26,139.59 according to the committee.

This sum was contributed by bricklayers, carpenters, building service employes, electrical workers, bakers, beer drivers, cement and concrete workers, jewelry workers, laundry workers, lithographers, machinists, musicians, operating engineers, sheet metal workers, typographical workers, cloak makers, fraternal organizations, particularly the Workmen's Circle and the Social Democratic Federation.

Declaring that the "1941 Free Labor Fund is an obligation which organized labor has assumed voluntarily," Mr. Woll said: "We have always been in the forefront of the struggle against totalitarianism and know how closely our fate as trade unionists is tied up with those who are fighting Nazism and Fascism abroad. In addition to providing the tools of defense for these active fighters, labor has undertaken to relieve the sufferings of the civilians, particularly the workers and their families in the countries now engaged in war against the axis powers and suffering from their unbridled horrors of the axis aggressions.

"I urge labor everywhere to work as hard and to contribute in proportion as New York labor is doing, since we all recognize that our future as trade unionists and as Americans will be the same wherever we may live in so far as Hitler's aggressions are concerned."

Roosevelt Denounces John L. Lewis As Menace To America And Labor

Washington, D. C.—President Roosevelt, in a nation-wide radio broadcast, denounced the labor leadership of John L. Lewis as a menace to America and American workers.

Angered by the refusal of Lewis to continue operations of the captive coal mines pending negotiation of his demands for a closed shop, the President interjected his bitter denunciation of the CIO chieftian in the midst of his Navy Day address.

The President did not mention Lewis by name but he pointed his references to him with a raised intonation of voice to which his audience at the Mayflower Hotel responded with resounding cheers. In the following quotation from the President's remarks, the phrases he emphasized are italicized:

"Our nation will and must speak from every assembly line, *yes, from every coal mine*, the all-inclusive whole of our vast industrial machine.

"Our factories and our shipyards are constantly expanding. Our output must be multiplied.

"That output cannot be hampered by the selfish obstruction of any small minority, a small but dangerous minority of industrial managers who, perhaps, hold out for extra profits or for 'business as usual.'

"*And it cannot be hampered by the selfish obstruction of a small but dangerous minority of labor leaders for a minute. For labor as a whole knows that that small minority is a menace to the true cause of labor itself, as well as for the nation as a whole.*"

Lewis called the captive mine strike despite an urgent plea from the President to permit continued production of coal during negotiations so that steel production would not be impeded. The captive coal mines are owned by steel companies and most of the output is used by these steel firms.

In all, the President sent three letters to Lewis but each plea was rejected.

The President made it clear in his letters that the strike endangered the national defense program. All appeals to patriotism fell on deaf ears.

Lewis tried to make it appear that the dispute was between him and J. P. Morgan and in no way involved the defense program, but the President refused to let the issue be confused by such red herrings.

Meanwhile, Lewis' defiance of the President and the needs of the defense program stirred up a torrent of denunciation in Congress. Sponsors of anti-labor legislation took heart from the situation, and announced they would immediately press for laws prohibiting defense strikes, thus proving President Roosevelt's charge that Lewis is a menace to the best interests of American workers.

Wage Act Has Increased Earnings Of Over One Million Workers

Washington, D. C.—More than a million of the nation's lowest-paid, sweated workers—many of whom had toiled for starvation pay—have had their earnings boosted to well above 30 cents an hour, thanks to the Wage-Hour Act.

That was one of the many remarkable gains cited on the occasion of the third birthday of the law by General Philip B. Fleming, its administrator. Fleming listed these other impressive benefits:

"Hundreds of thousands of American workers who once got so little for their labor that they could not live without charity or relief have been made self-supporting.

"Responsible employers who pay fair wages have been partially freed from the competition of irresponsible employers.

"More than a hundred million dollars additional is being paid to labor this year because of this law.

"The reasonable and just principle that extra long hours of work should be paid for with extra overtime pay has been firmly established.

"In enforcing the law, we have made employers pay about $16,000,000 in back wages legally due to about 500,000 workers."

The Wage-Hour Administration plans to make the 40-cent "bottom" universal in industries covered by the act, as rapidly as possible, Fleming declared.

The administrator stressed the fact that the law hasn't been a boon solely for the employes.

"Employers seem to have profited from the law quite as much as the workers," he said.

I.L.O. Conference Hears Two Programs For Better World Order After the War

New York City.—A joint appeal for the expansion of the world's developed resources to create a good standard of living for all nations was made by Secretary of Labor Perkins and Mayor Fiorello H. LaGuardia at the opening session of the 1941 conference of the International Labor Organization.

To the 160 delegates of 33 nations who unanimously elected her conference chairman, Miss Perkins said:

"We do not live in a world of fully developed and unlimited resources. We know that there is not enough cotton produced in the world for each person to have the equivalent of three shirts, two pairs of overalls, half a dozen socks each year.

"Our problem is that of finding some way to stretch existing resources and to develop new ones to produce a more abundant life for people who have suffered the privations of war, from Chungking to London."

Mayor LaGuardia said that the I. L. O.'s job was to set a living standard for all countries and that the job "has got to be done in terms of 'rosbraten,' spaghetti, goulash and beefsteak."

The LaGuardia plan, as he suggested it:

"The formula for the reconstruction of destroyed areas in Europe is very simple: I would make the Nazis rebuild everything that they destroyed."

"The world cannot continue in peace with some countries prospering and other countries hungry. Nature has provided sufficient food to satisfy all . . . now work out the formulas and insure centuries of peace and happiness."

The Perkins formula:

"The three fields in which there must be a great extension are those of health, nutrition, and housing. There can be no excuse for inadequate curative and preventive medical services."

Thomas E. Burke Dies in Seattle; Plumbers Association Secretary

Washington, D. C.—Thomas E. Burke, Secretary-Treasurer of the United Association of Journeymen Plumbers and Steamfitters of the United States and Canada for thirty-two years, died October 23 in Seattle, Washington, at the age of 77. He was stricken with a heart attack October 10, after arriving in Seattle for the recent American Federation of Labor convention, and had been a patient in the Seattle Providence Hospital until his death. Mrs. Burke, who was at her husband's bedside in Seattle, arrived in Washington with the body. Funeral services will be held here.

Mr. Burke was born in 1864 in Ireland. He joined the Plumbers local union in Chicago in 1886. In 1904 he was elected general organizer of the United Association of Plumbers, serving in that capacity until 1909 when he was unanimously elected by the General Executive Board of the Plumbers to fill the office of General Secretary-Treasurer, succeeding John M. Love. The 1910 convention voted to continue him as secretary-treasurer, which office he held until his death.

In addition to his office as secretary-treasurer of the United Association of Plumbers and Steamfitters, Mr. Burke contributed valuable services to the labor movement in a number of other capacities. In 1929 he was elected president of the Workers Education Bureau of America and in the same year presided at the first New England Labor Congress. In 1932 he was chosen as a fraternal delegate of the American Federation of Labor to the British Trades Union Congress.

The stockholders of the Union Labor Life Insurance Company elected Mr. Burke as vice president for three years at the first annual meeting of the company in 1927. Later he became treasurer. He was also a trustee of the Mount Vernon Liquidating Trust, which took over the affairs of the Mount Vernon Savings Bank in 1934.

Mr. Burke was one of the veterans of the American labor movement. He was recognized as the historian of the Journeymen Plumbers and Steamfitters Association. The high regard which the entire membership of his union had for him was expressed in a nomination speech made fourteen years after his name had first been placed before a Plumbers convention as a candidate for secretary-treasurer.

"No words of mine," said the delegate who nominated Mr. Burke for reelection, "can express the feeling of the membership for him. He has been associated with our organization from its infancy and he has watched its progress. In each convention we see him present, ever alert, ever doing things for the best interests of his organization."

He leaves a widow, one son and one brother.

News Briefs

AFL WORKERS REPAIR CIO UNION'S OFFICE

New York, N. Y.—The CIO's National Maritime Union wasn't the least bit embarrassed by the complaint the CIO's United Construction Workers Organizing Committee that it was using AFL labor to renovate its new headquarters. "A lot of mullarkey" is the way NMU officials characterized it. They said they just couldn't find any contractors in New York City who employed other than AFL labor.

UNION AGREEMENT SIGNED FOR $45,000,000 PROJECT

Texarkana, Ark.—Representatives of international unions affiliated with the American Federation of Labor have negotiated an agreement with the Winston Brothers Construction Company providing that a $45,000,000 job which the company is constructing will be one hundred per cent union.

A. F. L. WINS AGREEMENT FOR CAMP CHAFFEE JOB

Fort Smith, Ark.—The Fort Smith building trades unions affiliated with the American Federation of Labor have signed an agreement with A. Farnell Blair, general contractor in charge of the construction of Camp Chaffee, with the provision that work on the project will be performed by the AFL building crafts.

MACHINISTS UNION WINS $82,000,000 PAY RAISE

The International Association of Machinists gained one of the greatest wage increases in the history of the airplane industry from the Consolidated Aircraft Corporation in San Diego, California. The association won pay boosts of 13 cents an hour, retroactive to August 9, for 27,000 employes. It was estimated that this increase will add $82,000,000 to pay envelopes while the corporation is completing $750,000,000 of Government orders.

ANTI-LABOR BILL FOUGHT BY CALIFORNIA UNIONS

San Francisco, Calif.—In accordance with a plan outlined by the recent convention of the California State Federation of Labor, the federation has initiated a state-wide campaign against the adoption by referendum of Senate Bill No. 877, which proposes to nullify the activities of organized labor in its efforts to protect the interests of its members. The federation urges raising a fund of 50 cents per member from all affiliated unions to finance the campaign against the adoption of the bill.

Ordinarily the referendum would take place at the regular 1942 election, but the anti-labor Associated Farmers has petitioned the Governor to order a special election, which, if granted, will shorten the campaign.

The federation convention also supported "whatever action is deemed necessary by the administration to make sure that American aid" to defeat the Axis powers "reaches its destination," asked legislation to reduce the working hours of firemen in municipal fire departments in California in many of which the firemen work from "84 to 168 hours per week," and urged the state-wide adoption of the apprentice definition approved by the American Federation of Labor and many national and state bodies.

PACIFIC SEAMEN GAIN HIGHER PAY AND BONUS

San Francisco, Calif.—A new contract providing for a basic wage of $100 a month for able seamen in offshore and intercoastal trades, and $107.50 in coastwise service, has been agreed upon by the Sailors Union of the Pacific and the Pacific American Steamship Owners' Association, it was announced by Harry Lundeberg, secretary of the union. The contract provides for an overtime rate of $1.10 for coastwise seamen, with that of the intercoastal services not yet determined.

War bonuses for service in the Red Sea, African Ocean, Persian Gulf and the Indian Ocean have been raised from $60 to $80 a month, with seamen entering the port of Suez getting an additional $100, plus $5 a day while there, according to Mr. Lundeberg.

A. F. OF L. UNION CERTIFIED FOR RAILWAY EMPLOYES

Washington, D. C.—The National Mediation Board announced the certification of the Brotherhood of Maintenance of Way Employes, AFL affiliate, to represent the entire craft or class of maintenance of way employes of the Pacific Electric Railway Company. The certification was made on the basis of an election for collective bargaining representative held by the board in which 433 employes eligible to vote cast their ballots for the AFL affiliate and only 64 for another organization.

Gray Denounces Currier Bid As Plot To Raid AFL and Hinder Defense

Exposes Anti-Labor Record of Firm and Charges CIO Union Accepts Wages Lower Than Established Scale

Washington, D. C.—Testimony before the Senate Committee investigating defense contracts exposed the "sweetheart agreement" between the Currier Lumber Company and the CIO Construction Workers Union as a plot to harass the A. F. of L. building trades unions and to embarrass the national defense construction program.

Facts submitted to the committee by Richard J. Gray, Acting President of the A. F. of L. Building and Construction Trades Department, disclosed that the Currier firm has a long record of anti-labor practices which should effectively bar it from receiving any Government contract.

Mr. Gray took up one by one the charges made before the committee by A. D. (Denny) Lewis, little brother of John L. Lewis, and head of the paper union known as the United Construction Workers (CIO), and punctured the arguments put forward in support of the raiding tactics of this organization.

In view of the whole record of obstruction to the defense program engineered by John L. Lewis and the obvious fact that Denny Lewis is his brother's willing tool, the Currier incident was regarded by informed persons as merely another in the chain of attempts by the Lewis coterie in the CIO to get President Roosevelt and the defense program into hot water.

Mr. Gray warmly defended the role of Sidney Hillman, Associate Director of the OPM, in helping to bring about the stabilization agreement entered into by the A. F. of L. building trades unions with Government defense agencies. He denied this agreement gave the A. F. of L. unions a monopoly on defense construction jobs and proved that a large number of these projects were awarded to non-union contractors.

Mr. Gray also submitted proof that the rejected Currier bid for a housing project in Detroit was not $400,000 lower than the next lowest bidder. He showed that the actual difference was only $216,000 and added significantly:

"If the committee prefers to investigate this point further, it would be interesting for them to subpoena from the Social Security Board the records of the social security taxes paid on the employes of the Currier Lumber Company. This would, to say the least, establish one particular point—that is, what were the wage rates paid by the Currier Company to their so-called 'union employes?' I have heard it alleged that the wages paid their mill workers ranged from 60 to 70 cents an hour in most cases. If this is so, that is from 20 to 30 cents below the wage customarily paid by employers of union labor for mill workers in the Detroit area and would, in a certain degree, account for some of the difference of the questioned $216,000.

"In view of the large publicity given in the public press and by radio commentators to this matter and the fact that the difference in the bids was freely stated as being $430,000, I think that the committee owes it to the citizens of this country to clarify these facts."

The Currier Lumber Company's labor record is so bad that industrial strife would unquestionably ensue if the contract were awarded to that firm, Mr. Gray declared. He submitted the following statement exposing the company's labor record:

"The Currier Lumber Company has a 6-year record of practices which under the National Labor Relations Act are considered unfair and illegal. It has advocated an open shop and encouraged such a policy in the Retail Lumber Dealers Association of Detroit. It has intimidated its employes from joining the union of their own choosing. It has fostered a company union among the workers of the Currier Lumber Company. Its subsidiary organization has chiseled on its workers pay, it has sent strikebreakers into a number of struck or lock-out plants, as well as aiding and abetting lumber dealers in their fight against organized labor and we hold Mr. Currier is responsible for the death of one of our members in a lumber dispute last spring.

"As far back as March, 1937, when the Truck Drivers' Local No. 247 of the Building Material Coal and Excavating Drivers and Helpers Union was engaged in a city-wide lock-out with the Lumber Dealers Association, Mr. Currier was a very active member of the Labor Committee which was set up by the Lumber Dealers Association to conduct negotiations with the union. Mr. Currier assured the union representatives that if the men were sent back to work negotiations for a closed shop, wage increases, and other demands of the strikers would be retroactive to the date of the men's return to work.

"On this understanding and acting in good faith the union representatives carried on negotiations with the Lumber Dealers Association for a period of about 30 days. At the end of this time, Mr. Currier announced the association would not recognize Local 247 and that the employers of their own volition were granting retroactive increases to their workers.'

"Our union officials in Detroit tell me that as a result of this action the organization lost its entire membership in the lumber yards with the exception of one company, the F. M. Sibley Lumber Company, which remained about 98 per cent organized.

"The union committee believed that Mr. Currier was acting in good faith as he told our representatives that the strike was effective and that the wise course, for both management and labor, was for the men to go back to work and carry on negotiations.

"The Currier Company maintained a 'social club' for its employes. This organization carried on social activities, sick and death benefits and a credit union. The president of that organization is now president of the recently formed CIO union. The Teamsters' Union in Detroit believes that on September 11 or 12, Mr. Currier held a meeting of his truck drivers and advised them to join the CIO and offered to pay their initiation fees.

"Early in the Spring of 1935, Mr. Currier set up a dummy organization, the Funke Builders Supply Company, to sell sand and gravel to the Currier Company. The address of the company was 8951 Schaefer Highway, the same as the Currier Lumber Company. The Funke Company engaged in questionable business practices to the detriment not only of the gravel truckers, but to the owners of the pits as well. The Funke Builders Supply Company had agreed with its truckers on a weekly salary of $25.00 to be paid on the 10th of each month. In June, 1939, approximately 20 truckers joined Local 247. When the next pay day came, as had happened on several previous occasions, both Mr. Currier and Mr. Funke were missing. When Mr. Robert Mitchell, President of Local 247, finally reached Mr. Currier to protest the non-payment of the drivers, he was assured the matter would be investigated.

"When full restitution was not forthcoming, William W. Roe, Secretary-Treasurer of the Union, served notice, in accordance with Michigan law, on the Funke Builders Supply Company, the Currier Co. and the State Labor Board, of the union's intention to strike these concerns. Upon receipt of this notice, Mr. Funke disappeared from Detroit, and when Mr. Currier was reached, he claimed that only $1,000 was owed by him to Mr. Funke. This amount was far less than the total wage bill due the truckers. However, the men divided the $1,000, and since the Funke Company was dissolved, were left without jobs and with no means of securing the rest of their back wages.

"To the best of our knowledge, Mr. Currier made no effort to locate Mr. Funke and disclaimed any further responsibility other than the $1,000 which he said represented his debt to Mr. Funke.

"During 1935, when the trucker's union was carrying on an organizing campaign in various gravel pits in the Detroit area, the Currier Company employed individual truck owners who bought gravel at the pits, transported it to the plant and then sold it to the company. The price of the load was determined by Mr. Currier. The price set by Mr. Currier was much lower than that paid truckers working for other companies. The organizational efforts of the union were successful among these truckers. However, when any truck owner hauling for the Currier Lumber Company joined the union his services were immediately terminated.

"Mr. Currier has a long record in fomenting industrial strife and labor unrest in the Detroit area. Again I have to go back to 1937. During the month of September in a strike of the building trades council with small home builders the trucker's union became involved in a strike against the S. M. Sibley Lumber Company. As I stated before, this was the only lumber yard in which the union had been able to maintain substantial organization. During this dispute Mr. Currier brought several carloads of his employees to the Sibley Company. These men went to work in the yards and generally acted as strikebreakers. I have in my hand a sworn affidavit from Mr. William W. Roe, Secretary-Treasurer of Local 247. The affidavit deals with Mr. Currier's activities in this dispute. It reads as follows: 'I met Mr. Currier on the sidewalk outside the Sibley Lumber Company and challenged him on his activities as a strikebreaker. Mr. Currier replied the Lumber Company did not intend to have any union men of and kind and that he would assist in helping any dealer, whether it be lumber or otherwise, in breaking a strike. He said that as long as we were in the city of Detroit the union would be a threat to their industry.' As a result of Mr. Currier's strikebreaking assistance to the Sibley Lumber Company the trucker's union lost its entire membership in this yard.

"Again, in September, 1938, when the trucker's union called a strike against the Braun Lumber Company, Mr. Currier pledged his support to this company and started making deliveries for the struck plant from his own yards. This dispute lasted nine weeks and it was chiefly the Currier Company's delivery of the struck plant's materials that broke the strike. This was again a major setback in the union's attempt to improve working conditions of its membership and stabilize employer relationship in the lumber industry."